

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing mailpieces in a mail-processing system including a computer, the method comprising:

(a) detecting address information present on at least one surface of a mailpiece and applying a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpieces at a sorting station after detecting the address information, the machine-readable identification code uniquely identifying the mailpiece;

(b) transmitting the detected address information and ~~an appertaining~~ the machine-readable identification code to an interface computer and storing the detected address information and the ~~appertaining~~ pertinent machine-readable identification code in a memory of the interface computer;

(c) accessing the stored detected address information and the stored machine-readable identification code ~~and determining address information on the basis of the detected and stored information;~~

(d) comparing the detected address information with address information present in a plurality of sources of a database;

(e) automatically selecting new address information from the address information in the database when the stored detected address information does not match address information in the database, the new address information being selected by searching the database for new address information that is most similar ~~to associating the detected address information with new address information, in case of a detected defective address information, on the basis of the comparison that has been carried out;~~

(f) ~~transmitting the associated new address information and the appertaining identification code to the interface computer;~~

(g) ~~sorting and displaying the new address information in a selection list and choosing address information for applying onto the mailpiece from the selection list;~~

~~(h)~~ detecting a second time, the machine-readable identification code ~~applied onto~~ on the mailpiece to re-identify the mailpiece and ensure that ~~and~~ applying the new address information is applied onto the correct mailpiece, ~~wherein the new address information is derived from the information read from the mailpiece and is applied as a function of the identification code, and~~

~~[[i]]~~ (g) sorting the mailpieces mechanically ~~so as to match actual sequence~~ of delivery.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising processing the mailpieces according to a two-stage process, comprising preliminarily sorting the mailpieces and, separately, sorting the mailpieces into smaller units, and detecting the address information present on the surface of the mailpiece and converting the address information present on the mailpiece into the new address information during the preliminary sorting.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ascertaining whether the detected address information contains a first postal code, and converting the first postal code into a postal code that matches the new address information by comparing the first postal code to a list of new postal codes contained in a conversion file.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising applying the new address information onto the mailpiece in coded form.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the address information comprises a barcode.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the address information is at least partially in plain text.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising carrying out one of the preliminary sorting and the sorting the mailpieces into smaller units as a function of the new address information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising transporting the mailpieces at least over a segment as a function of the new address information.

9. (Currently Amended) A device for processing mailpieces comprising:

a) a first detection device that detects address information present on at least one surface of ~~the mailpieces~~ a mailpiece and a first printer to apply a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpiece, the machine-readable identification code uniquely identifying the mailpiece mailpieces;

b) an interface computer operatively connected to the detection device and to the printer, the interface computer comprising memory for storing the detected address information wherein the interface computer sorts and displays a selection list and a decision module;

c) processing stations comprising a processor that accesses the stored detected address information and the ~~appertaining~~ stored machine-readable identification code codes, and ~~the processor~~ automatically determines new address information on the basis of the stored detected address information by accessing[[:]]

d) a database with a plurality of sources, the database comprising address information, and comparing ~~a comparison unit that compares~~ the detected address information with address information present in the database,[[:]]

e) a ~~the processor~~ automatically associating that associates, in the case of a detected defective address information, the detected address information with new address information on the basis of a comparison of the detected address information with the address information that is present in the database when the detected address information does not match the address information that is present in the database;

[[f)]] d) a transmitter that transmits the new address information and the identification code from the processing stations to the interface computer;

[[g)]] e) a second detection device that detects the machine-readable identification code applied onto the mailpieces and transmits the machine-readable identification code to the interface computer, the interface computer associating the mailpiece with the new address information and sending instructions to a second

~~printer~~ a device that applies the new address information onto the mailpiece as a function of the identification code, and

[[[(h)]] f) a sorting station that sorts the mail pieces mechanically so as to match actual sequence of delivery;

~~wherein the new address information is derived from the information read from the mailpiece.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The device for processing mailpieces of claim 9, wherein the first detection device ~~that detects information present on at least one surface of the mailpieces~~ and the first printer ~~that applies a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpieces~~ are both located at a sorting station.

11. (New) The device for processing mailpieces of claim 9, wherein the first detection device and the second detection device are a single detection device.

12. (New) The device for processing mailpieces of claim 9, wherein the first printer and the second printer are a single printing device.

13. (New) A method of processing mailpieces in a mail-processing system including a computer, the method comprising:

detecting address information on a surface of a mailpiece;

transmitting an identification code to a printer after detecting the address information, the identification code uniquely identifying the mailpiece;

printing the identification code on the mailpiece;

transmitting the detected address information and the identification code to an interface computer;

comparing the detected address information to known address information in a database by using a comparison file;

converting the detected address information into new address information if the detected address information does not match the known address information by automatically selecting an address from the known address information that is most similar to the detected address information;

generating a target code based on the new address information;

transmitting the target code to a printer;

detecting the identification code on the mailpiece to ensure that the target code will be applied to the correct mailpiece;

printing the target code on the mailpiece; and

sorting the mailpiece based on the target code.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the target code is encrypted.

15. (New) The method of claim 13, comprising converting the detected address information into new address information with a decision module that automatically selects new address information from a list of possible new addresses retrieved from the database.

16. (New) The method of claim 13, comprising sorting virtual mailpieces in electronic form.

17. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the target code is 13 characters long.

18. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the identification code contains less data than the target code contains.

19. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the detected address information includes an incorrect postal code.

20. (New) The method of claim 13, comprising printing the target code with fluorescent dye.